

Amendments to the Specification

Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments to the specification in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121.

Please replace the second paragraph [0048] on page 17 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0048] In the described embodiments, data is transmitted in one frequency band from a data source device to one or more destination devices, and the synchronization information is transmitted in a second frequency band to the destination devices from either the data source device or a separate synchronization device. Synchronization using out-of-band signaling over the network 120 comprises the transmission of a time synchronization pulse outside of the normal band used for network data communications. For example, on a power-line network this signal is more preferably transmitted at a higher frequency than the band used for the network data. Alternatively, the time synchronization signal can be transmitted at a lower frequency band ~~that~~ than that used to transmit network data. It is noted that the exact frequency would also depend on what home network technology is used (e.g., HomePNA or HomePlug).

Please replace the second paragraph [0051] on page 19 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0051] As shown in FIG. 2B, the GPS receiver 211 provides time data 209 to controller 216. The time data 209 is the out-of-band signal for this particular embodiment. According to one implementation, when a single satellite receiver is used (~~e.g., required to be visible~~), an inexpensive receiver may be utilized so as to keep costs of the playback destination device 200' at a minimum minimize the costs of the playback destination device 200'. While controller 216 receives time data 209 from receiver 211, controller 216 also receives decoded information in the nature of the time sequence number from the demodulator/NIC 206. In general, the information received by controller 216 from demodulator/NIC 206 is a standard data frame, and not an out-of-band signal.

Please replace the third paragraph [0052] on page 19 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] Network interface 202 is representative of a variety of embodiments. For example, one embodiment of the present invention is implemented with a HomePNA NIC attached to a telephone receptacle at network interface 202, and another embodiment is implemented with an Ethernet NIC coupled to an Ethernet port at network interface 202. Once data is demodulated through a selected NIC 206, it is placed in a buffer 214. Modulated time synchronization signals with the time sequence number contained therein are received from network 120 through connection 202 and forwarded to demodulator 208. The demodulated time synchronization signals can then be used to adjust a local clock 210 as in FIG. 2A. Alternatively, demodulator 208 can feed the demodulated time synchronization signals to controller 216, which in turn invokes the adjustment of the local clock 210. The controller 216 in one embodiment

executes the software stored in the memory 212, and uses the demodulated time synchronization signals to determine when to playback certain data contained in buffer 214. Those of ordinary skill in the art will readily recognize that controller 216 and memory 212 (e.g., a read-only-memory) are enabled to decode the data received so as to interpret the protocol used to transfer the content (e.g., audio, MP3, raw PCM samples that can be embodied in TCP/IP frames) over the demodulator and NIC 206. Furthermore, memory 212 contains instructions for feeding content into the controller 216 and D/A converter 218 (CODAC) so that data is played by speaker 222, and instructions, like for example, to adjust sound volume. Generally, controller 216 plays the data from buffer 214 according to ~~signal~~ signals received from local clock 210. This means that the controller 216 forwards the data from buffer 214 to D/A converter 218, amplifier 220, and speaker 222.

Please replace the third paragraph [0065] on page 28 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0065] As mentioned, the described embodiments of the present invention can support virtually any transmission media, including wireless configurations. For example, one or more wiring segments between two devices ~~are~~ may be replaced with a bi-directional wireless link (e.g., RF, IR, optical, ultrasonic, or equivalents). By employing wireless transceivers at the two endpoints of a chain of devices having bi-directional transceivers, a network could be constructed with the wireless link serving to complete the network path.